



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/563,581	01/06/2006	Aurelie Falcou	40515.0001USWO	3223
23552 7590 05/16/2008				
MERCHANT & GOULD PC				
P.O. BOX 2903				
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903				
EXAMINER				
WILSON, MICHAEL H				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1794				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
05/16/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/563,581

Applicant(s)

FALCOU ET AL.

Examiner

MICHAEL WILSON

Art Unit

4145

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 January 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20060106
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Inventor's Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: The phrase "proviso that that the sum" should read "proviso that the sum." Appropriate correction is required.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because it lacks a brief description of the drawings. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(f).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 6, 7, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 6, the recitation of "Aryl is...pyridine" renders the claim indefinite because pyridine is a heteroaromatic group which is excluded from claim 1. For the purposes of this action claim 6 is interpreted to not include the pyridine.

Regarding claim 7, the recitation of "formula have a total of two aryl substituents which are attached to the spirobifluorene unit either via... positions 2 and 7 or 2 and 2' "

renders the claim indefinite because aryl groups in the 2 and 7 or 2 and 2' positions would require n and m to both be 1. An n and m of 1 according to formula (1) would require 4 aryl substituents attached to the spirobifluorene. For the purposes of this action claim 7 is interpreted to read "wherein the compounds of the formula have a total of four aryl substituents which are attached to the spirobifluorene unit via positions 2, 2', 7 and 7'."

Claim 11 recites the limitation "the electron injection layer" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For the purposes of this action claim 11 is interpreted to read "wherein the hole blocking layer directly adjoins the cathode or an electron injection layer without use of an electron transport layer."

Claim 12 recites the limitation "from the classes of the carbazoles... on spirobifluorenes" in lines 3-6. For the purposes of this action claim 12 is interpreted to read, "from a carbazole, ketone, imine, phosphine oxide, phosphine sulfide, phosphine selenide, phosphazine, sulfone, sulfoxide, silane, polypodal metal complex, or oligophenylene based on spirobifluorene."

Appropriate correction is required.

Use Claim

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

7. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 18 provides for the use of the design of the electric devices, but, since the claim does not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass. A claim is indefinite where it merely recites a use without any active, positive steps delimiting how this use is actually practiced.

8. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process, i.e., results in a claim which is not a proper process claim under 35 U.S.C. 101. See for example *Ex parte Dunki*, 153 USPQ 678 (Bd.App. 1967) and *Clinical Products, Ltd. v. Brenner*, 255 F. Supp. 131, 149 USPQ 475 (D.D.C. 1966).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 1794

10. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

11. Claims 1-10, 12-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baldo et al. (US 6,097,147) in view of Ueda et al. (US 2002/0122900).

Regarding claims 1, 5-7, Baldo et al. disclose an organic electroluminescent device comprising an anode, a cathode (column 3, lines 20-30) and at least one emission layer comprising at least one matrix material which is doped with at least one phosphorescent emitter (column 6, lines 10-11), wherein at least one hole blocking layer is incorporated between the emission layer and the cathode (column 3, lines 20-30). The reference further discloses that the material used for the hole blocking layer need only have a larger band gap than the energy level of the excitons formed in the emission layer (column 4, lines 25-29) and discloses NPD, Alq₃ BCP and CBP as suitable materials for a hole blocking layer (column 4, lines 25-29). However the reference does not explicitly disclose spirobifluorenes of formula (1) as a material for the hole blocking layer.

Ueda et al. teach spirobifluorenes ([0060] and specifically structural formula 1 page 7, and structural formulae 4 and 5, page 9) as blue emitting electron transporting compounds suitable for use in an organic electroluminescent device [0060]. The

Art Unit: 1794

compounds of Ueda et al correspond to the instant formula where aryl is biphenyl, naphthyl, or anthracene, n and m are both 1, and p and o are both 3 ([0026], structural formula 1 page 7, and structural formulae 4 and 5, page 9).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use the compounds of Ueda et al. in the hole blocking layer of Baldo et al. One of ordinary skill in the art given Alq₃ and CBP, both blue emitting compounds, as suitable for the hole blocking layer would reasonably expect the spirobifluorene compounds of Ueda et al., which are taught as blue-emitters, to also be suitable. One of ordinary skill would be motivated by a desire to optimize the hole blocking layer in a device and guided in the selection of a specific compound for the hole blocking layer by the disclosure of Baldo et al. that the material used for the hole blocking layer need only have a larger band gap than the energy level of the excitons formed in the emission layer (column 4, lines 29-34).

Regarding claims 2, 10, and 12-14, modified Baldo et al. disclose all the claim limitations as set forth above. Additionally the reference discloses wherein:

- a hole injection layer and/or a hole transport layer and/or an electron injection layer and/or an electron transport layer and optionally further layers are present (column 3, lines 60-65)
- the layer thickness of the hole blocking layer is 8 nm (column 6, lines 12-13);
- the matrix material is a carbazole compound (column 5, line 43);
- the phosphorescent emitter is a complex of Al, Ga, In, Sc, Sn, Rh, Ir, or Pt (column 4, lines 44-65; column 5, lines 9-10 and 45);

- the phosphorescent emitter contains at least one element from the group of rhodium, iridium, or platinum (column 4, lines 44-65; column 5, lines 9-10 and 45);

Regarding claims 3 and 4, modified Baldo et al. disclose all the claim limitations as set forth above. Additionally the reference only discloses the hole blocking material as forming the hole blocking layer (column 4, lines 25-29; column 6, lines 12-13). While the reference does not explicitly disclose the % composition of the hole blocking layer no other material is disclosed for use within the layer. Therefore, it would be readily apparent to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention that the hole blocking layer may consist only of the hole blocking material.

Regarding claims 8-9, modified Baldo et al. disclose all the claim limitations as set forth above. While the reference is silent to the glass transition temperature the compounds disclosed by Ueda et al. being within the formula claimed by applicant, the glass transition temperature of compounds would be expected inherently to have the same properties as disclosed by applicant. Recitation of a newly disclosed property does not distinguish over a reference disclosure of the article or composition claims. *General Electric v. Jewe Incandescent Lamp Co.*, 67 USPQ 155. *Titanium Metal Corp. v. Banner*, 227 USPQ 773. Applicant bears responsibility for proving that reference composition does not possess the characteristics recited in the claims. In *re Fitzgerald*, 205 USPQ 597, In *re Best*, 195 USPQ 430.

Regarding claims 15-17, modified Baldo et al. disclose all the claim limitations as set forth above. The reference further discloses several methods of forming the organic

electroluminescent layers including deposition, thermal evaporation, spin coating, electron-beam evaporation, and sputtering. The reference does not explicitly disclose organic vapor deposition or a printing process for forming the layers.

However, the patentability is determined by the recited structure of the device and not by a method of making. The examiner notes that even though a product-by-process is defined by the process steps by which the product is made, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. *In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 227 USPQ 964 (Fed. Cir. 1985). As the court stated *in Thorpe*, 777 F.2d at 697, 227 USPQ at 966 (The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. *In re Pilkington*, 411 F.2d 1345, 1348, 162 USPQ 145, 147 (CCPA 1969). If the product in a product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process.).

Regarding claim 18, modified Baldo et al. disclose all the claim limitations as set forth above. The reference also discloses wherein the device is part of a laser device (column 5, lines 65-66).

12. Claims 11, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baldo et al. (US 6,097,147) in view of Ueda et al. (US 2002/0122900) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Fukuoka et al. (US 2001/0000943 A1).

Regarding claim 11, modified Baldo et al. disclose all the claim limitations as set forth above. The reference does not explicitly disclose wherein the hole blocking layer

Art Unit: 1794

directly adjoins the cathode or the electron injection layer without use of an electron transport layer.

Fukuoka et al. et al. teach a luminescent layer directly adjacent to an electron injection layer ([0165]-[0166]).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the luminescent/electron injection layer structure of Fukuoka et al. with the device of modified Baldo et al. Both references disclose similar electroluminescent devices. One of ordinary skill in the art would reasonably expect such a structure to be suitable for the device of Baldo et al. as Fukuoka et al. teach an electron injection layer directly connected to the luminescent layer in a similar electroluminescent device. Further one of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to use an electron injection layer without an additional transporting layer by a desire to simplify the device while improving electron injection.

Regarding claim 15 and 16, modified Baldo et al. disclose all the claim limitations as set forth above. While the reference discloses methods of deposition as preferred methods of forming an electroluminescent device such as electron beam evaporation and spin coating, the reference does not explicitly disclose organic vapor phase deposition (column 5, lines 45-53).

Fukuoka et al. teach vapor deposition as the method of forming organic layers in a similar electroluminescent device [0261]. Fukuoka et al. teach a vapor deposition method, sputtering method, EB (Electron Beam) method, MBE (Molecular Beam Epitaxy) method, LB (Langmuir Blodgett) method, CVD (Chemical Vapor Deposition)

method, and spin coat method as equivalent methods of forming layers that are interchangeable [0241].

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use vapor deposition as taught by Fukuoka et al. for the device of Baldo et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would readily recognize that organic vapor phase deposition would be suitable given the teachings of Fukuoka et al. Such a use of the method would amount to nothing more than use of a known method in a known environment to produce entirely expected results.

Regarding method limitations in claims 15 and 16, the recitation of a method of sublimation or deposition, the examiner notes that the determination of patentability is determined by the recited structure of the apparatus and not by a method of making said structure. A claim containing a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is made does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus if the prior art apparatus teaches all the structural limitations of the claim.

13. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baldo et al. (US 6,097,147) in view of Ueda et al. (US 2002/0122900) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Igarashi (US 6,299,796 B1).

Regarding claim 17, modified Baldo et al. disclose all the claim limitations as set forth above. The reference further discloses several methods of forming the organic electroluminescent layers including deposition, thermal evaporation, spin coating,

electron-beam evaporation, and sputtering (column 5, lines 45-53). However the reference does not explicitly disclose printing as a method of forming layers.

Igarashi teaches spin coating and printing methods as suitable methods for forming layers in electroluminescent devices (column 12, lines 53-58). The reference discloses the methods as equivalent methods.

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a printing method to for layers in the device of Baldo et al. Both references disclose similar electroluminescent devices. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize printing methods as suitable for forming layers in the device of Baldo et al. as Igarashi teaches deposition or printing methods are suitable. The use of a printing method in the device of Baldo et al. would amount to nothing more than use of a known method in a known environment to produce entirely expected results.

Regarding method limitations in claim 17, the recitation of a method of applying layers, the examiner notes that the determination of patentability is determined by the recited structure of the apparatus and not by a method of making said structure. A claim containing a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is made does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus if the prior art apparatus teaches all the structural limitations of the claim.

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Lupo et al. (US 5,840,217 A) discloses numerous spirobifluorenes of instant formula (1) but does not disclose a hole blocking layer, or the compounds as electron transporting.

Nishi et al. (US 2002/0034659 A1) discloses similar spirobifluorene compounds wherein said Aryl of formula (1) is a heteroaromatic ring system as suitable for a hole blocking layer.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL WILSON whose telephone number is (571) 270-3882. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:30-5:00PM EST, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Callie Shosho can be reached on (571) 272-1123. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1794

16. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MHW

/Callie E. Shosho/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1794